

**John 16:7-14 (NIV)**

7 But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

8 When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:

9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me;

10 in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer;

11 and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.

13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

**THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

43-16-02-Our Trust in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Person of the Trinity  
Apostles Creed, Holy Spirit, conviction, indwelling Christ  
John 16:7-14

Following Jesus requires the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

**INTRODUCTION: (text for Scripture Reading)**

–**Title**, because [**The Apostles Creed** proclaims the *Trinitarian* faith that God is a *divinely mysterious Unity of 3 distinct Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit*. Of those 3, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Person gets only a short, “*I believe in the Holy Spirit.*”]

–Yet the Bible, 1) begins with Him “hovering over the waters” at creation, 2) ends with Him telling people to “take the free gift of the water of life” and, 3) owes what’s written between its covers to the Spirit’s inspiration!

–He got poor recognition after the early church era, until the Holiness Movement of the 1800s. During the cross-denominational Charismatic Movement, books about Him flooded the Christian market, with a focus on His gifts and people’s experiences with Him. This was *exciting* as well as *controversial*. But *unity, not division*, was the Creed’s purpose.

–So, that’s a little on **Who He is**, but this message is more about **Whom we trust** by saying, “*I believe in the Holy Spirit,*” because **HOM.idea**.

**I. Christ Himself Needed the Holy Spirit Throughout His Life**

- A. He initiated the miraculous conception of Jesus in Mary’s womb.
- B. At Jesus’ baptism, He “descended on him in bodily form like a dove.”
- C. He filled and led Jesus during His time of temptation in the desert.
- D. Jesus said, “The Spirit of the Lord is on me... [*anointing*] me to preach good news to the poor... proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind.” (That same *anointing* resting on Jesus *now* rests on us.)
- E. Jesus “full of joy through the Holy Spirit” praised the Father. (The same Holy Spirit longs to fill us with His *joy*, moving *us* to praise God.)

**TRANS:** “*I believe in the Holy Spirit,*” says “*I trust **in** Him and **entrust myself to** Him, **just as Jesus did.** To follow Jesus, we need the Holy Spirit’s presence and power. Jesus knew exactly what His Bride, the Church, needed, so He *sent us* the very same *Comforter* Who stayed with Him during His earthly ministry. Jesus says in **John 16:12-14**, “*I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.*”*

## II. Jesus Continues to Shepherd Us by the Holy Spirit\*

- A. **\*with guidance** - *He wants to tell us more.*— 1 Cor 2:12,16, We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.... “For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ. (For believers to learn the Lord’s concerns, the Holy Spirit must give us *His vision for our decisions; His voice to guide our choices.*)
- B. **\*with boldness** - *He wants us courageous.* [One survey showed only 10% of Christians *tended to share their faith.*] (Prayer changes that— Acts 4:31, After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.)
- C. **\*with growth** - *He wants us to be fruit-bearers.* [Another survey showed little variation between non-Christian and Christian viewpoints on *abortion, promiscuity, drunkenness, pornography, profanity, etc., etc.*]
1. Jesus displaces the value-system we absorb from modern culture, replacing it with His— Gal 5:22-23, But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
  2. But *our will plays a role in fruit-bearing: Jesus belongs to us, by receiving Him; but we belong to Jesus by surrendering to Him— Gal 5:24-25*, Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit [*Who gives us new birth*] let us keep in step with the Spirit [*Who helps us live a holy life*].

**TRANS:** [CPR? Despite chest compressions and electrical defibrillation, a patient dies without a supply of O<sub>2</sub>. Our church may have *nice singing* and *nice sermons*, but unless God blows His Wind on us, unless He breathes His Breath into us, we have no spiritual life for *Kingdom living*.] To have *guidance, boldness* and *spiritual growth*, our church must let Jesus blow the Breath of the Spirit on us.

**Following Him requires the Holy Spirit’s presence and power.**

## III. The Holy Spirit Multiplies Jesus in the Lives of Believers

- A. Christ’s plan was to finish what He started... through us.
1. To **empower** us, He sent same Person Who empowered Him— Acts 1:8, But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you...
  2. Jesus wants His mission to **continue**— John 14:12, I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father... (*But how?*)
  3. The Holy Spirit **enables** Christ’s ministry in us— John 20:21-23, Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” (“*Isn’t forgiveness God’s job!*” YES! But, by the Holy Spirit, Jesus indwells us to keep *spreading forgiveness.*)

- B. *Don’t worry!* We’re not responsible for the *Holy Spirit’s work!* We’re to explain the Gospel and give our testimonies, but we can’t convince anyone— v.8, When he [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will **convict** the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment. (Our job is to have *available minds, sensitive hearts, and obedient wills.*)
- C. In v.14, Jesus said the Holy Spirit “*will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.*” [A chemistry prof tested students, allowing them to bring “*a single sheet of paper with all the information they could fit on it.*” One brought a blank sheet, dropped it on the floor, had a grad student come in and stand on it to help him take the test.] (The help we need for life’s tests isn’t “*What would Jesus do?*” but “*What will Jesus do?*” — *What will He do in and through us by the Holy Spirit?*)

### CONCLUSION:

—As God’s children, we’re often forgetful, forgetting **who** we are and **Whose** we are. It’s not enough to repeat, “*I believe in the Holy Spirit.*” **Following Jesus requires the Holy Spirit’s presence and power.** [Stained-glass windows tell stories—Bible events, divine miracles, Gospel narratives. Outside, people notice nothing remarkable. But inside, with sunlight pouring through them, the colors ignite and the windows come alive!] The Holy Spirit isn’t a stained-glass doctrine in a *repetitive creedal statement*. His **power** must pour through the windows of our hearts, making the *truth of Scripture come alive*. His **presence** must *make the life and character of Christ real* in our own lives. As Jesus did and calls us to do, we must **trust in the Holy Spirit**, and **entrust ourselves to Him** for His divine work to be done in us.